

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR § 1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1.	Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:			
	1a. 🛚	Form PTO-1449.		
	1b. 🔯	Copies of IDS citations.		
	1c. 🔯	A copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.		
	1d. 🛚	English language translation (Abstract only) attached to each non-English language publication.		
	1e. 🛚	Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of indicated non-English publications.		
	1f. 🔲	List of Copending Applications (ATTACHMENT 1(f), hereto).		
	1g. 🗍	List of Additional Submitted Documents (ATTACHMENT 1(g), hereto).		

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR §1.97(b):

(Check either Item 2a or 2b or 2c or 2d)

2a. 🔲	Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a
	Continued Prosecution Application under § 1.53(d);
2b. 🗌	Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in

§ 1.491 in an international application. Before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; or

Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114.

3.		specified Action un	imation Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR § 1.97(c) after the period in paragraph 2 above but before the mailing date of any of a Final Office der § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311 or an action that otherwise osecution in the application, AND (Check either Item 3a or 3b; Item 3b to be checked if
			any reference known for more than 3 months)
		3a.	The §1.97(e) Statement in Item 5 below is applicable; OR The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is: enclosed.
			to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
4.		specified	mation Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR §1.97(d) after the period in paragraph 3 above, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee, AND
		4a.	The § 1.97(e) Statement in Item 5 below is applicable; AND The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is: enclosed.
			to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
5.	\boxtimes	Statemen	t under § 1.97(e) (applicable if Item 3a or Item 4 is checked)
	_		(Check either Item 5a or 5b)
		5a. 🛚	In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), it is stated that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
		5b. 🗌	In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2), it is stated that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
6.		This is a of 1.53(b).	continuation/divisional/continuation-in-part application under 37 CFR §
			(Check appropriate Items 6a and/or 6b)
		6a. 🗌	Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were previously cited in prior application Serial No, filed on, and which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date for the subject application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, have been omitted pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.98(d).
		6b. 🗌	Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were not previously cited in prior application Serial No, filed on, and which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date for the subject application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, are provided herewith.

7.			a continuation/divisional application under 37 CFR § 1.53(d) or Request for ued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114.
			(Check either Item 7a or 7b)
		7a 7b	The Issue Fee has not been paid. A Petition to Withdraw from issue under 37 CFR §1.313(c) is filed concurrently herewith or has been granted. A continuation application under 37 CFR § 1.53(d) or Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114, after payment of the Issue Fee is proper in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.53(d)(1)(ii) or 37 CFR 1.114(a), respectively.
8.		This is	a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.
			(Check either Item 8a or 8b)
		8a. <u> </u>	1.97(f) supplements the Information Disclosure Statement filed on A bona fide attempt was made to comply with 37 CFR § 1.98, but inadverted omissions were made. These omissions have been corrected herein. Accordingly, additional time is requested so that this Supplemental IDS can
		8b	be considered as if properly filed on This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is timely filed within one (1) month of the Notice under 37 CFR § 1.97 and 1.98, mailed (MPEP 609 C(1), Form ¶ 6.49, Rev. 1, Feb. 2000, pp. 600-107)
9.	_		dance with 37 CFR § 1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently od to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is: (Check appropriate Items 9a, 9b, 9c and/or 9d)
		9a	enclosed English language copy of the PCT International Search Report or the search report from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. (See U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's authorization in the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 12, January 17, 1992, at page 2031 (Reply to Comment 68).)
		9b.	
		9d. 🛚	attached to each non-English language publication. enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.
10.	be th	e, mater an sear	sion is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to ial to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other ch report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International eport, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

11. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17 for this Information Disclosure Statement and/or Petition to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Dated: <u>Jan. 15, 2002</u> 700 Eleventh Street, N.W., Suite 500

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